

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 26

Introduced by Senator Chesbro

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Aghazarian, Bates, Benoit, Berg, Bermudez, Bogh, Campbell, Canciamilla, Chan, Chavez, Chu, Cogdill, Cohn, Corbett, Correa, Cox, Daucher, Dutra, Dutton, Dymally, Firebaugh, Frommer, Garcia, Goldberg, Hancock, Harman, Jerome Horton, Shirley Horton, Jackson, Keene, Koretz, La Malfa, La Suer, Laird, Leno, Lieber, Liu, Longville, Lowenthal, Maddox, Maldonado, Matthews, Maze, McCarthy, Montanez, Mountjoy, Mullin, Nakanishi, Nakano, Nation, Negrete McLeod, Nunez, Oropeza, Pacheco, Parra, Pavley, Plescia, Reyes, Richman, Ridley Thomas, Runner, Salinas, Samuelian, Simitian, Spitzer, Steinberg, Strickland, Vargas, Wesson, Wiggins, Wolk, Wyland, and Yee)

April 22, 2003

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 26—Relative to California Nurses Day and California Nurses Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 26, as amended, Chesbro. California Nurses Day and California Nurses Week.

This measure would proclaim May 6, 2003, as California Nurses Day, and would also proclaim the 2nd week of May, commencing in the year 2003, and every year thereafter, as California Nurses Week.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The 293,537 registered nurses and 94,784 licensed
2 vocational nurses in California compose the state's largest licensed
3 health care profession; and

4 WHEREAS, Professional nurses provide compassionate,
5 culturally appropriate, and comprehensive health care to a
6 growing, diverse population; and

7 WHEREAS, The depth and breadth of the nursing profession
8 meets a broad spectrum of the health care needs of Californians in
9 a variety of settings; and

10 WHEREAS, A renewed emphasis on preventive health care and
11 the early detection of disease requires improved use of the state's
12 nursing resources; and

13 WHEREAS, Professional nursing is an indispensable
14 component of the safety and quality of patient care in every health
15 care setting for every age group; and

16 WHEREAS, The need for registered nursing services will be
17 greater than ever due to the use of increasingly complex,
18 life-sustaining technologies, the expanded leadership and practice
19 roles of registered nurses in various places of service, and the
20 critical role of registered nurses in responding to mass casualty
21 management; and

22 WHEREAS, The provision of cost-effective health care
23 services by registered and licensed vocational nurses will be an
24 important component of the California health care delivery system
25 in years to come; and

26 WHEREAS, Recognizing that licensed nurses are the
27 cornerstone of the health care workforce, California is the first
28 state in the nation to propose nurse-to-patient ratios for acute care
29 hospitals; and

30 WHEREAS, A far greater number of licensed nurses are needed
31 to meet the present and future demand, and Governor Gray Davis
32 has launched a \$60 million Nurse Workforce Initiative to address
33 the growing nursing shortage in California; and

34 WHEREAS, Nurses working in all sectors of health care
35 celebrate May 6 to May 12 as National Nurses Week, a time to
36 recognize that nurses provide high-quality patient care services
37 throughout California; now, therefore, be it

38 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
39 *thereof concurring,* That registered and licensed vocational nurses
40 are hereby recognized and honored for accomplishments and

1 efforts to improve the health care system in California; and be it
2 further

3 *Resolved*, That the California Legislature hereby proclaims
4 May 6, 2003, as California Nurses Day; and be it further

5 *Resolved*, That the California Legislature designates the second
6 week of May, commencing in the year 2003, and every year
7 thereafter, as California Nurses Week; and be it further

8 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
9 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

